
HOUSE BILL 2807

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Schual-Berke, Hunt, Lantz, Cody, Hudgins, Ormsby, Miloscia, Appleton, Green, Wood, Hankins, and Kagi

Read first time 01/16/08. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs.

1 AN ACT Relating to voters' pamphlets; amending RCW 29A.32.036,
2 29A.32.210, 29A.32.241, and 29A.32.250; and adding new sections to
3 chapter 29A.32 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.32.036 and 2004 c 271 s 122 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 If the secretary of state prints and distributes a voters' pamphlet
8 for a primary in an even-numbered year, it must contain:

9 (1) A description of the office of precinct committee officer and
10 its duties;

11 (2) An explanation that, for partisan offices, only voters who
12 choose to affiliate with a major political party may vote in that
13 party's primary election, and that voters must limit their
14 participation in a partisan primary to one political party; ((and))

15 (3) An explanation that minor political party candidates and
16 independent candidates will appear only on the general election ballot;
17 and

18 (4) Candidates' statements, if submitted, advocating the
19 candidacies of nominees for justice of the supreme court, and judge of

1 the court of appeals. Submitted statements must be factual and
2 neutral. Candidates may also submit a campaign mailing address and
3 telephone number and a photograph not more than five years old and of
4 a size and quality that the secretary of state determines to be
5 suitable for reproduction in the voters' pamphlet.

6 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 29A.32 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 The secretary of state must make available on its web site an
9 electronic primary voters' pamphlet that contains information on all
10 judicial elections being conducted in the primary election. Judicial
11 candidates must be allowed to submit statements advocating their
12 candidacies. Candidates may also submit a campaign mailing address,
13 telephone number, web site, electronic mail address, and a digital
14 photograph of a size and quality that the secretary of state determines
15 to be suitable for reproduction in the electronic primary voters'
16 pamphlet.

17 **Sec. 3.** RCW 29A.32.210 and 2003 c 111 s 813 are each amended to
18 read as follows:

19 At least ninety days before any primary or general election, or at
20 least forty days before any special election held under RCW
21 (~~29A.04.320~~) 29A.04.321 or 29A.04.330, the legislative authority of
22 any county or first-class or code city may adopt an ordinance
23 authorizing the publication and distribution of a local voters'
24 pamphlet. The pamphlet shall provide information on all measures
25 within that jurisdiction, information on all judicial candidates within
26 that jurisdiction, and may, if specified in the ordinance, include
27 information on nonjudicial candidates within that jurisdiction. If
28 both a county and a first-class or code city within that county
29 authorize a local voters' pamphlet for the same election, the pamphlet
30 shall be produced jointly by the county and the first-class or code
31 city. If no agreement can be reached between the county and first-
32 class or code city, the county and first-class or code city may each
33 produce a pamphlet. Any ordinance adopted authorizing a local voters'
34 pamphlet may be for a specific primary, special election, or general
35 election or for any future primaries or elections. The format of any

1 local voters' pamphlet shall, whenever applicable, comply with the
2 provisions of this chapter regarding the publication of the state
3 candidates' and voters' pamphlets.

4 **Sec. 4.** RCW 29A.32.241 and 2004 c 271 s 123 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 The local voters' pamphlet shall include but not be limited to the
7 following:

8 (1) Appearing on the cover, the words "official local voters'
9 pamphlet," the name of the jurisdiction producing the pamphlet, and the
10 date of the election or primary;

11 (2) A list of jurisdictions that have measures or candidates in the
12 pamphlet;

13 (3) Statements from judicial candidates within that jurisdiction
14 and may include their photographs;

15 (4) Information on how a person may register to vote and obtain an
16 absentee ballot;

17 ((+4)) (5) The text of each measure accompanied by an explanatory
18 statement prepared by the prosecuting attorney for any county measure
19 or by the attorney for the jurisdiction submitting the measure if other
20 than a county measure. All explanatory statements for city, town, or
21 district measures not approved by the attorney for the jurisdiction
22 submitting the measure shall be reviewed and approved by the county
23 prosecuting attorney or city attorney, when applicable, before
24 inclusion in the pamphlet;

25 ((+5)) (6) The arguments for and against each measure submitted by
26 committees selected pursuant to RCW 29A.32.280; and

27 ((+6)) (7) For partisan primary elections, information on how to
28 vote the applicable ballot format and an explanation that minor
29 political party candidates and independent candidates will appear only
30 on the general election ballot.

31 **Sec. 5.** RCW 29A.32.250 and 2003 c 111 s 817 are each amended to
32 read as follows:

33 If the legislative authority of a county or first-class or code
34 city provides for the inclusion of candidates in the local voters'
35 pamphlet, the pamphlet shall include the statements from candidates,

1 including judicial candidates, and may also include those candidates'
2 photographs.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 29A.32 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 Each county auditor must make available on the county's web site an
6 electronic primary voters' pamphlet that contains information on all
7 judicial elections within its jurisdiction being conducted in the
8 primary election. Judicial candidates must be allowed to submit
9 statements advocating their candidacies. Candidates may also submit a
10 campaign mailing address, telephone number, web site, electronic mail
11 address, and a digital photograph of a size and quality that the county
12 auditor determines to be suitable for reproduction in the electronic
13 primary voters' pamphlet.

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